

Comments to JOT@wapa.gov

Doug Hardy
General Manager
Central Montana Electric Power Cooperative
501 Bay Drive
Great Falls MT, 59047
406-268-1211 or cell, 406-223-3091
doug@cmepc.org

I am writing to provide input to the

The process of the public meetings and listening sessions should lead the JOT and DOE to a single conclusion. That conclusion is that WAPA has been evolving very effectively implementing incremental change both proactively in terms of transmission additions upgrades and improvements both proactively and as challenges present themselves. WAPA is leading in many areas of the industry.

I believe and the JOT leaders confirmed, that no federal entity has more support from and I would say as affective relationship with the customers it interacts with than the PMAs, including WAPA.

The Federal government has one of the greatest success stories that could ever be written, that being the positive industry and economic benefits regions and in return, the nation are receiving.

I encourage the report to the Secretary to be the following,

- Report the many good things and policies of WAPA are accomplishing.
- Report the importance of continued support of WAPA administrators working with customers to continue the incremental change that has served the regions and nation so well.
- Report that the administrators and their Staff working with customers are prioritize the incremental changes, they through interaction with customers and the many other inputs they receive, are in the best position to prioritize resources as they navigate through our changing times.
- Report the importance of beneficiary pays and the equity of the existing process of determining who the beneficiaries are, which determines the magnitude of investments spread across all customers versus charged to “cost causers)

It is my hope that the recommendations be far less broadly stated as in the present form they could be used to justify wholesale change. The Jot team leaders were very

articulate and clear that it is not the intent to make wholesale changes in any area. We believe it is extremely important in the recommendation to narrow the scope of intent to the incremental changes shared by the JOT leaders, especially with the typical changes in personnel at all levels including the Secretary. It would be a travesty if new staff and leaders look in the future and believe the JOT recommendations conveyed greater change than conveyed, change they could create large cost shifts that could harm the customers that have paid the costs since inception and count on affordable WAPA power as part of their supply to drive their livelihoods and the economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment and for the interaction that has taken place.

Doug Hardy